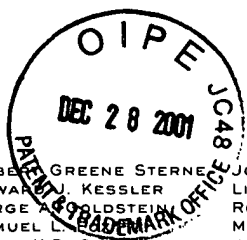


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Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Art Unit 1646

Re: U.S. Patent Application  
Appl. No. 09/943,084; Filed: August 31, 2001  
For: **Prolonged Delivery of Peptides**  
Inventors: KIM *et al.*  
Our Ref: 1658.0020003/MAC/MBT

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Preliminary Amendment; and
2. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents  
December 28, 2001  
Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Michele A. Cimbala  
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MAC/MBT/rlw  
Enclosures